

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/634,091

Applicant(s)

COCHRAN ET AL.

Examiner

Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.

Art Unit

2129

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filing of 04/02/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

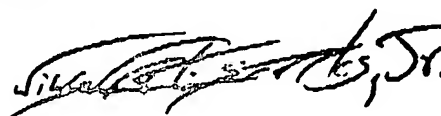
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



DETAILED ACTION

Reasons For Allowance

1. Claims 1-18 are allowed.
2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1-18 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, as per MPEP §2111.01 or In re Sneed, 710 F.2d 1544, 1548, 218 USPQ 385, 388 (Fed. Cir. 1983), none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in independent claim 1, including possible motivations of a decision maker (as defined at page 10, paragraph [0030]), a variety of opinions about a strength of such motivations (as defined at page 10, paragraph [0030]), a weighting the motivations (as defined at page 4, paragraph [0011] and at page 6, paragraph [0017]), a combining the weights to create a decision model (as defined at page 4, paragraph [0011] and at page 6, paragraph [0017]), a identifying possible decision outcomes (as defined at page 7, paragraph [0019]), a assessing the possible decision outcomes with respect to the decision making model. (as defined at page 4, paragraphs [0012] through [0014] and at page 7, paragraphs [0020] through [0022]).

Art Unit: 2129

3. Further, none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in independent claim 5, including "identifying issues likely to be considered in making a decision in a decision domain" (as defined at page 7, paragraph [0019]), a "relative importance" (as defined at page 4, paragraph [0011]), a "characteristics" (as defined at page 1, paragraph [0001] and at page 4, paragraphs [0012] through [0014] and at page 6, paragraphs [0016] through [0018]), "individually rating the degree to which the characteristics are related to making the decision" (as defined at page 5, paragraph [0013]), a "determining rankings" (as defined at page 5, paragraph [0014]), a "adjusting" (as defined at page 5, paragraphs [0014] through [0016]).

4. Further, none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in independent claim 6, including the "recruiting" of a team (as defined at page 4, paragraph [0004]), "listing decision criteria" (as defined at page 4, paragraph [0010] and at page 6, paragraphs [0018] through [0022]), "listing outcome characteristics" (as defined at page 4, paragraph [0012] and at page 7, paragraph [0022]), a "rating the relevance of the outcome characteristics" (as defined at page 4, paragraphs [0011] through [0012]), "assessing a covariance in the ratings" (as defined at page 5, paragraph [0014] and at page 7, paragraph [0023]), "selecting highly rated outcome characteristics for use in a decision model" (as defined at page 5, paragraph [0013] and at page 7, paragraphs [0020] through [0022]), "generating a list of decision outcomes based on highest rated outcome characteristics"

Art Unit: 2129

(as defined at page 6, paragraphs [0017] through [0018] and at page 7, paragraph [0022]), "assessing a covariation in judgments using statistical analysis to produce a weighted list of options corresponding to predictions of the decision" (as defined at page 4, paragraph [0011] and at page 6, paragraph [0018]).

5. Further, none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in independent claim 14, including a "decision domain" (as defined at page 7, paragraph [0019]), a "relative importance" (as defined at page 4, paragraph [0011]), "characteristics" (as defined at page 1, paragraph [0004] and at page 4, paragraphs [0012] through [0014] and at page 6, paragraphs [0016] through [0018]), "individually rating the degree to which the characteristics are related" (as defined at page 5, paragraph [0013]), "determining rankings of individuals and team identified characteristics" (as defined at page 5, paragraph [0014]), "iteratively adjusting individual ratings based on the rankings to generate the decision making model" (as defined at page 5, paragraphs [0014] through [0016]).

6. Further, none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in independent claim 15, including "recording possible motivations of a decision maker identified by the team of individual raters" (as defined at page 10, paragraph [0030]), "recording a variety of opinions about a strength of such motivations" (as defined at page 10, paragraph [0030]), "weighting the motivations" (as defined at page 4, paragraphs [0011] through [0017]), "combining

Art Unit: 2129

the weights to create a decision making model stored in memory accessible by the computer" (as defined at page 4, paragraphs [0011] through [0017]), "recording possible decision outcomes identified by the team of individual raters" (as defined at page 7, paragraph [0019]), "creating a list of the possible decision outcomes with respect to the decision making model and indication of ranking of the possible decision outcomes fixed for recording on physical media for use in determining one or more most likely decisions" (as defined at page 4, paragraphs [0012] through [0014] and at page 7, paragraphs [0020] through [0022]).

7. Further, none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in independent claim 16, including "recording possible motivations of a decision maker identified by the team of individual raters" (as defined at page 10, paragraph [0030]), "recording a variety of opinions about a strength of such motivations" (as defined at page 10, paragraph [0030]), "weighting the motivations" (as defined at page 4, paragraphs [0011] through [0017]), "combining the weights to create a decision making model stored in memory accessible by the computer" (as defined at page 4, paragraphs [0011] through [0017]), "recording possible decision outcomes identified by the team of individual raters" (as defined at page 7, paragraph [0019]), "creating a list of the possible decision outcomes with respect to the decision making model and indication of ranking of the possible decision outcomes fixed for recording on physical media for use in determining one or more most likely

Art Unit: 2129

decisions" (as defined at page 4, paragraphs [0012] through [0014] and at page 7, paragraphs [0020] through [0022]).

8. Further, none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in independent claim 18, including "rating importance of each decision criterion by each member and recording the rating on memory in the computer" (as defined at page 5, paragraph [0013]), "generating a list of outcome characteristics for the decisions" (as defined at page at page 4, paragraph [0012] and at paragraphs [0022]), "each member rating a relevance of each outcome characteristic to each decision criterion and recording such relevance on memory in the computer" (as defined at page at page 4, paragraphs [0011] through [0012]), "assessing a covariation of outcome characteristics using computer implemented statistical analysis" (as defined at page 5, paragraph [0014] and at paragraph [0023]), "adjusting member ratings for outcome characteristics as a function of the statistical analysis" (as defined at page 5, paragraphs [0014] through [0016]), "selecting highly rated outcome characteristics" (as defined at page 5, paragraph [0013] and at page 7, paragraphs [0020] through [0022]), "generating a list of decision outcomes from such highest rated outcome characteristics" (as defined at page at page 4, paragraph [0012] and at paragraphs [0022]), "assessing covariation in such ratings using computer implemented statistical analysis" (as defined at page 5, paragraph [0014] and at paragraph [0023]), "generating a weighted list of predicted decisions using the computer adapted for

Art Unit: 2129

display, transmission or storage" (as defined at page 4, paragraph [0011] and at page 6, paragraph [0018]).

9. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

- A. Games et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,717,031 B2; dated 06 APR 2004; class 800; subclass 012) discloses a method for selecting a transgenic mouse model of Alzheimer's disease.
- B. Mark et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,549,861 B1; dated 15 APR 2003; class 702; subclass 076) discloses an automated system and method for spectroscopic analysis.

Art Unit: 2129

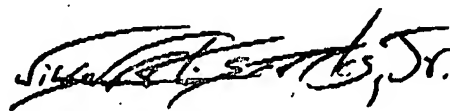
- C. Blum (U.S. Patent Number 6,132,724 A; dated 17 OCT 2000; class 424; subclass 725) discloses an allelic polygene diagnosis of reward deficiency syndrome and treatment.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Wilbert L. Starks, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3691.

Alternatively, inquiries may be directed to the following:

S. P. E. David Vincent (571) 272-3080

Official (FAX) (571) 273-8300



Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2129

WLS

24 JUN 2007